Accordingly, meetings were held on 14th August, 1997 and 13th December, 1999. However, no consensus could emerge in these meetings. In the last meeting held on 13th December, 1999, many leaders were of the view that the Bill needs to be withdrawn from the Rajya Sabha. This issue was discussed in the meeting of the Consultative Committee of the Parliament on 2nd May, 2003, where a consensus emerged among the Members on the need for more effective measures for controlling population growth in the country. It was felt that there was need for larger consensus on the matter, for which a meeting of leaders of political parties could be convened. However, since the policy of the Government is to keep the family welfare programme as voluntary and free from any incentives, disincentives or coercion, the option of withdrawing the Bill is under consideration of the Government.

Filling up of vacancies of Judges

549. SHRIMATI N.P. DUGRA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is not a fact that 21 Hight Courts have 137 vacancies of Judges;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the district and subordinate courts are devoid of 2,845 Judges;

(c) if so, the details of the vacancies in High Courts, district and subordinate courts, State-wise; and

(d) the measures taken by Government to fill up the vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K: VENKATAPATHY) (a) to (d) Against the sanctioned strength of 675 Judges in 21 High Courts 536 Judges were in position as on 21.11.2005, leaving 139 vacancies to be filled up. A statement showing the High Court -wise details of the vacant posts is given at Statement-I (*See* below).

1.1 Pursuant to the Supreme Court Judgement of Octobe 6, 1993 read with their Advisory Opinion of October 28,1998, the process of initiation of proposal for appointment of Judges of a Hight Court lies with the Chief Justice of that Hight Court. The Government have, however , been requesting the Chief Justices of the High Courts,Chief Ministers

and the Governors of the States, from time to time, to initiate proposals for filling up of the present and anticipated vacancies during the next six months.

2. Under Article 235 of the Constitution of India, the administrative control over the member of subordinate judiciary in the States vests with the concerned Hight Court and the State Government. Thus, filling up of the vacant posts of Judges/Magistrates at the district and subordinate courts is the concern of the respective Hight Courts and the State Governments.

2.1 the Supreme Court, in its judgment of March 21, 2002 in all India Judges Association case had directed that the existing vacancies in the subordinate courts at all levels should be filled, if possible latest by 31st March, 2003, in all the States.

2.2 The Central Government has been periodically urging all the State Governments/Union Territories to accord utmost priority to filling up of vacant posts of Judges and Magistrates. The Minister of Law and Justice has written to the Chief Justices of all Hight Courts and Chief Ministers of all States on 26.4.2002 for ensuring compliance of the aforesaid order of the Supreme Court dated 21st March, 2002. As per the information available, 2845 posts of Judges in district/ subordinate court were vacant as on 01.12.2004. State-wise details of vacant posts are given at Statement-II

Statement-I

High Court-wise vacancies of Judges

Sl. No.	Name of the Court	Sanctioned strenght as on 21.11.2005	Judges in position	No. of vacancies
1	2	3	4	5
	Supreme Court	26	22	04
	Hight Courts			
1.	Allahabad	95	82	13
2.	Andhra Pradesh	39	30	09
3.	Bombay	60	55	5
4.	Calcutta	50	30	20
5.	Chhattisgarh	08	8	-
6.	Delhi	33	27	6

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Gauhati	19	17	2
8.	Gujarat	42	35	7
9.	Himachal Pradesh	8	7	1
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	14	10	4
11.	Jharkhand	12	5	7
12.	Karnataka	40	32	8
13.	Kerala	29	28	1
14.	Madhya Pradesh	41	39	2
15.	Madras	42	22	20
16.	Orissa	20	14	6
17.	Patna	31	22	9
18.	Punjab & Haryana	40	29	11
19.	Rajasthan	40	32	8
20.	Sikkim	3	3	—
21.	Uttaranchal	9	9	—
	TOTAL	675	536	139

Statement-II

Judge strength at District/Subordinate Court Level as on December 1, 2004

Name of the State/UT	No. of sanctioned posts	No. of posts filled	No. of vacant posts
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	797	724	73
Arunachal Pradesh	Judiciary is not separated from Executive		
Assam	277	240	37
Bihar	1157	754	403
Chhattisgarh	235	192	43
Goa	44	28	16
Gujarat	896	727	169
Haryana	303	226	77
Himachal Pradesh*	98	92	6
Jharkhand	533	482	51
Jammu & Kashmir	202	186	16
Karnataka	805	691	114

1	2	3	4
Kerala	377	363	14
Madhya Pradesh	797	725	72
Maharashtra	1095	750	345
Manipur	35	27	8
Meghalaya	8	6	2
Mizoram	33	15	18
Nagaland	16	16	0
Orissa	481	405	76
Punjab	305	251	54
Rajasthan	835	665	170
Sikkim	13	7	6
Tamil Nadu*	767	702	65
Tripura	75	62	13
Uttar Pradesh	1930	1258	672
West Bengal	713	549	164
Uttaranchal	192	95	97
Union Territories			
Delhi	392	332	60
Pondicherry	21	20	1
Chandigarh	19	17	2
Andaman & Nicobar Islands**	8	8	0
Lakshdweep Island	3	3	0
Daman & Diu	4	3	1
Dadra & Nagar Haveli***	2	2	0
TOTAL:	13468	10623	2845

* As on January, 2003 ** As on July, 2003 *** As on June, 2002

Vetting of Rules, Regulations,etc.

550. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that proposals relating to vetting of Rules Regulations, Notifications and Policy decisions are not being promptly attended to in his Ministry causing delays in various Ministries/ Departments;